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## **Man Pleads Not Guilty to Long Beach Murder, Other Charges**

A Pomona man accused of fatally shooting another man after a party pleaded not guilty yesterday afternoon, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Thearath Sam, 26 (dob 11/28/87), was arraigned on one count of murder and two counts of possession of a firearm by a felon in case NAO98413. The charges include special allegations that the defendant personally and intentionally discharged a handgun, which caused great bodily injury and death.

The felony complaint further alleges that Sam was convicted in 2007 of one count of vandalism.

Sam appeared at the Los Angeles County Superior Court in Long Beach and his bail was set at \$2 million.

Deputy District Attorney Dean A. Bengston said on the evening of Jan. 20, Sam was at a party in Long Beach when he allegedly got into a confrontation with the victim, Sambo Chhoy, 33.

The two men were reportedly told to leave the party and exited into a back alley, Bengston said. Sam allegedly followed Chhoy for two blocks and then shot him. The victim died at the scene.

A little more than a month later, Sam was arrested in connection with the killing.

The defendant's next court appearance is scheduled for April 15 at the Long Beach Courthouse in Department 1.

If convicted as charged, Sam faces a maximum sentence of 54 years and eight months to life in state prison.

The case was investigated by the Long Beach Police Department.

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**About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office**

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Annually, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecutes more than 60,000 felonies and 140,000 misdemeanor crimes.